

DR. RAPER TALKS ABOUT TAXATION

Would Like to See the County
Made the Unit

Defects of Present System Which
Fail Because of Imperfect List-
ing—Wake's Good Showing

Dr. Charles L. Raper, of the chair of economics in the University of North Carolina, by a special invitation came to Raleigh and discussed taxation yesterday evening with a view to putting before the people a subject that is perhaps the most vital to them of all matters of government.

Dr. Raper spoke in the evening at a dinner to the Forum, the club of men, entertained by Clarence Poe. The Forum has executive sessions, so to speak, having no press agency feature, and traditionally setting itself against the publication of its meetings. For that reason Dr. Raper gave an interview briefly outlining what he would say and telling the scheme whereby he hopes to see a more equitable and a more honest system of taxation put into operation.

The correction of the tax system, particularly weak in its assessments of value, was the chief point of Doctor Raper's remarks.

"The general property tax (real and personal) is still the great source of revenue in North Carolina and other states," Doctor Raper said. "Such a tax is fair only when the value of the property is accurately and honestly placed upon the tax-books; it is very unfair and unjust when the assessment of values is done with little accuracy and care. The general property tax in North Carolina must either be abandoned or be administered with the utmost ability and justice. The present system of assessment is hardly more than self-assessment. Under it the honest man is taxed more heavily than the less honest one; one kind of property bears a higher burden than another; one locality—a township or a county—suffers for the benefit of another when both are equally able to pay.

"The unit of assessment is now the township and its work is done by a township assessor. This official is, for the most part, untrained for his special tasks. He is in no sense an expert in measuring the values of property; and the pay which he receives, \$3 or less a day for a period not exceeding two months, is not generally sufficient to attract the proper men. The county assessor, who has general supervision of the work of the township assessors, receives also a small compensation, \$4 or less a day for three months (five months in the case of the counties whose total values amount to more than \$10,000,000.) The actual assessment, as made by these officials, to say the least, is not very accurate or just.

Burden to Corporation Commission.

"The work of assessing certain general property and of supervising the labors of the county and the township assessors, is performed by the corporation commission, a body already heavily burdened with other tasks; and the extra pay which each member receives—\$500 annually—is all too meagre to stimulate great effort. This commission cannot make effective and just assessments of most of the property. Two townships with practically the same values have on the tax-books quite different amounts; and a good many counties are with injustice classed as 'pauper counties.'"

A State Tax Commissioner.

Doctor Raper brings the thing home to Wake county, one that pays much more than it receives and belongs to the rather contracted list of "rich counties." He advocated the creation of the office of a state tax commissioner, who should receive a salary of \$3,500 or \$4,000 annually and traveling and office expenses. "West Virginia," he said, "the most successful of the Eastern States in the matter of taxation, has had such an officer for several years; and West Virginians would not be without him. This officer should be appointed, I think, for a term of six years and should not be eligible for reappointment."

The University professor also advocated the county as the unit of assessment in the place of the present unit, the township. He would have a permanent and well-paid assessor for each county, who should be assisted by from one to four assistant tax assessors. Such a scheme would be far more effective and just than the present, and it would, upon the whole, cost the county less. The present assessor in most of the counties may receive \$4 a day for three months in the year; in those counties which have more than \$10,000,000 of taxable values, he may receive this pay for as long as five months. If he is engaged, say 74 days in the majority of the counties and 125 days in the others at a salary of \$4 a day, he receives from \$300 to \$500

annually. There are now 100 counties and 980 townships in North Carolina. This means an average of 9.8 township assessors to a county. Each of these receives, say \$3 a day, for average pay for about 50 days in the year—\$150 a year. The counties, therefore, on an average pay the assistant assessors \$1,470 yearly and the assessor from \$300 to \$500—a total of from \$1,770 to \$1,970 for the work of assessing their general property, etc. A county like Wake, with its 10 townships, pays its township assessors \$2,850 and the assessor \$500—a total of \$3,350. The counties could easily support a permanent assessing office with sufficient assistance upon the amounts now expended upon a less permanent and equitable assessment. That such a scheme is workable, we have ample proof in the State of West Virginia."

SOLD SPANISH PEANUTS TO AMOUNT OF \$12,500

State's Prison Directors Still Have on
Hand About 600 Bales of Cotton.

Hearing the report of Captain J. J. Laughinghouse and attending to routine matters there was held yesterday the monthly meeting of the board of directors of the State's prison. Present at the meeting were Chairman George A. Norwood, of Goldsboro; T. J. Renfrow, of Matthews, and George A. Holderness, of Tarboro.

Among other matters that have recently been transacted was the sale of ten thousand bushels of Spanish peanuts, grown on the State farm at Halifax, the sale at \$1.25 a bushel, a total of \$12,500. The peanuts were purchased by Petersburg parties.

Some time ago there was sold from the State farm 800 bales of cotton at 15-1-2 cents a pound, the bales averaging perhaps 425 pounds each, the returns being about \$42,500. There are now about 600 bales of cotton still on hand.

MRS. HARVEL CAN REMAIN IN DURHAM

Judge Foushee, After Hearing, Holds
Habeas Corpus Proceedings, Holds
That Harnett Woman Had Right to
Leave Husband.

Durham, Jan. 3.—Judge H. A. Foushee, after hearing the habeas corpus proceedings brought by attorneys for Mrs. John G. Harvel, whose husband swore out a warrant for her arrest, charging her with abandonment, released the wife this morning. The grounds for refusing to allow the woman to be arrested by the officer from Harnett county was that Mrs. Harvel, who is a daughter of a West Durham man, had a right to leave her husband. The evidence produced was that she had been very much mistreated, and her husband on one occasion had shot at her, and had more than one time threatened her life.

The warrant was sworn out in Harnett county and the deputy sheriff of that county came to Durham to make the arrest. Relatives of the woman employed an attorney and he carried the writ before Judge Foushee. The Harnett deputy went back empty-handed and told the husband of the writ of habeas corpus, and notified him to attend the hearing, which was set for this morning.

Harvel is an illiterate man, and when he was informed that his wife had taken out the writ, he became frightened. Leaving Harnett county he sent word to the Durham officers that he did not know anything about such proceedings, and did not propose to get mixed up with them.

TRAIN CRASHES THROUGH A TRESTLE

Two Known to Be Dead and a Score
Seriously Injured As Result of
Wreck On N. O., M. & C.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 3.—Two men are known to have been instantly killed, and more than a score seriously injured, some of whom may die, when a New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago passenger train bound for Mobile, crashed through a trestle at Leaf, Miss., this afternoon.

The engineer whose name is not known here and a woman passenger are also reported killed.

Thirteen negroes were badly hurt when the negro coach plunged from the trestle to the swamps below. The baggage coach telescoped with the tender. A relief train was sent from Mobile.

The engine of the wrecked train was of the heavy new type.

ENTRIES FROM MANY STATES

For Poultry Show at Rocky Mount
Middle of This Month.

Rocky Mount, Jan. 3.—The poultry show of the East Carolina Poultry association will hold forth in the armory on January 15, 16, 17 and 18. Already the management has received a much larger number of entries than has been entered at any previous show of this association. From all parts of North Carolina and from a number of other states have come entries and such a collection of chickens as will be shown has never before been seen in these parts.

The management has been fortunate in securing J. W. Dennis, of Blins Hall, Va., as judge. Mr. Dennis served in this capacity at last year's show and received unstinted praise from all sides.

Stage Converted Into Marriage Altar

And Two Members of Musical Comedy
Company Are Married Before
Snow Hill Theatre Goers.

Kinston, Jan. 4.—Two members of a musical comedy company who were playing in Snow Hill were married last night, from the platform of the Greene county courthouse, which served as a stage for the performance. The company recently played here a week, and went to Snow Hill, into which place a show occasionally drifts, under the auspices of a Kinston manager. It was the leading lady, Miss Lottie Grahber, who became the bride of Frank LaMonte, manager of the troupe, and the comedians and chorus ladies of the outfit were the attendants. A local justice of the peace officiated, and the occasion was altogether as solemn, the bride as blushing and the groom as confused as if the nuptials had been celebrated in a more conventional manner.

Miss Grahber and Mr. LaMonte had been engaged for some time, but when the little woman learned that she was to be married on a stage in front of an audience, she came near backing down. So determined was her resistance to the plan that it took all the persuasion the groom and the other members of the company could summon to get her to agree to it. However, the affair was as happily conducted as a marriage could be anywhere, and today Mr. and Mrs. LaMonte were the recipients of congratulations on every side.

L. A. HUGHES IN JAIL.

Lenoir County Man Attempts to Whip
Whole Family at LaGrange.

Kinston, Jan. 4.—L. A. Hughes, of LaGrange, is in the county jail here following his arrest on a capias issued at the request of Solicitor Shaw. Hughes assaulted his father-in-law at LaGrange, and he will have a hearing before a magistrate there for that charge. Sentence against him was suspended in a case at the May, 1911, term of criminal court, and he was ordered to pay the costs and appear before Superior court each May to prove good behavior. The offense with which he is now charged created no little excitement in LaGrange. Locking the house up while he was intoxicated, Hughes began to assault the whole family in turn. His wife leaped from a window to safety, and the assailant turned his attention to his father-in-law, B. F. Aldridge, cutting the old man on the side of his head with a knife. Mr. Aldridge and a son who came to his rescue then started in to thrash the riotous one. It is said, and succeeded, as marks on Hughes' face testify. A deputy sheriff arrested him on the charge of assault, and he will be taken back to LaGrange for a hearing on the count, and will again be brought before Superior court, probably, for disregarding the court's previous leniency and admonition for better conduct.

ARCHBALD TRIAL NOT OVER.

Defendant and His Wife to Take Stand
Monday.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—Only the testimony of Judge Robert W. Archbald himself and of his wife remained to complete the defense of the accused judge in the impeachment trial before the Senate when that body adjourned today until Monday.

Mrs. Archbald is expected to testify in regard to the kinship between herself and Henry W. Cannon, who paid the expenses of the Archbalds on an European trip in 1910.

Chas. P. Holden, a Boston machinist, testified today that in August, 1912, he bought for \$1,750 a fourth interest in the Katydid Culm bank, which figures so largely in the case. Testimony had been produced to show that Judge Archbald had offered \$8,000 for the dump.

Other witnesses testified about engineering features of the several culm dumps deals in which Judge Archbald is charged with being interested.

STORM DAMAGE \$500,000

Wires Put Out of Commission From
Florida to Maine.

(By the Associated Press.)
New York, Jan. 4.—At least three deaths and approximately \$500,000 property damage resulted from last night's eighty-mile gale, which swept New York and vicinity. This morning at 9 o'clock the wind had dropped to sixty miles an hour but the mercury had crawled down to 32 and pedestrians suffered keenly.

Belated returns of the damage done by the storm revealed that a clean sweep of the wires had been made from Jacksonville, Fla., to Maine, and that the storm was the most severe of recent years. Thousands of men were at work today repairing the damage.

Daybreak today found the coast from Florida to Maine dotted with camps of linemen, many of whom had worked all night in the darkness.

What makes a girl so sure of the man she is engaged to is she never will be when they are married.

OPEN AN ACCOUNT TODAY WITH THE FOURTH NATIONAL BANK FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

United States, County and City
Depository.

With our large capital and abundant resources we are fully equipped to care for your wants whether they are large or small, and our officers are always glad to help any worthy enterprise. Don't take chances by keeping your money at home where it may be burned or stolen but deposit it with us where it will be safe.

Capital - - - \$200,000.00
Assets - - - \$1,250,000.00

H. W. Lilly, President

J. O. Ellington, Vice-President

A. W. Peace, Vice-President

J. H. Hightower, Cashier

D. M. Hall, Assistant Cashier

NO STATEMENT AS TO JEFF DAVIS' SUCCESSOR

Believed Selection Will Be Made By
Legislature Which Meets 14th Inst.
Without a Democratic Primary.

(By the Associated Press.)
Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 3.—In the absence of Governor-elect Joseph T. Robinson, who is on a hunting trip and removed from means of quick communication, no authoritative statement could be had from him as to the selection of a successor to United States Senator Jeff Davis for the term beginning March 4, next.

It is pointed out, however, that the legislature is required to elect a United States senator when it convenes January 14, and the opinion is expressed by political leaders here that the selection will be made without the formality of calling a special Democratic primary to name a party nominee.

Announcement was made today that the funeral of the late senator would occur Sunday, but no details have as yet been arranged.

COMBINED FEDERAL DISTRICTS SHOW GAIN

December Revenue Collections In-
creased By Addition of a South Car-
olina District.

December gave big revenue collections to the Eastern North Carolina Federal district, and showed a gain of about \$110,000 over December of 1911.

The big figures are properly attributable to the addition of the South Carolina district. While that one was never a munificent revenue bailiwick, it contributed much to the general pile.

The collections for December, 1912, were \$365,696.79, and for December, 1911, they were only \$255,756.12. The gain was \$109,940.67. The eastern district, it is believed, will be a bigger one than the western after it has been operating under the change as long as a year.

HOW ATHENS SOLVED HER WATER PROBLEM

Told by Citizen of Georgia City, on
Way to Durham—Cancelled Com-
pany's Franchise and Built Plant.

C. A. Rowland, of Athens, Ga., a prominent man of that state who is intensely interested in the laymen's movement of the South, was in Raleigh yesterday on his way to Durham, where last night he was guest of George W. Watts at a conference with Mr. Watts and Rev. J. P. McCallie. Mr. McCallie is secretary of the movement.

Mr. Rowland, besides being interested in the laymen's movement, is one of Athens' most influential citizens and of Athens' most influential citizens and establishing a municipal water works for that city. Athens, stated Mr. Rowland, a few years ago experienced the same difficulty with its water supply as Raleigh has during the past summer. As a result of the unhealthy and unsanitary water furnished by the private water company, its franchise was forfeited by the city council, bonds issued and a modern, city-owned water plant erected, with its water supply coming from a large river. Athens is a town with a population smaller than Raleigh's, and Mr. Rowland says that under existing conditions Raleigh should have a water plant as good as that of Athens.

BUSINESS CHANGES AT LOUIS- BURG.

Louisburg, Jan. 4.—Louisburg Machine Works, Incorporated, is the style of a new firm for Louisburg, which will take over the business of the Jackson Tri-State Motor Car company at this place. The latter corporation will be moved to Raleigh.